



**HOPE
HEALTHCARE**

media release

100 Years of Hope
a Century of Care

For immediate use

Dollar value of donated service – our thanks to our Volunteers National Volunteer Week 12 to 18 May 2008

It has been recently estimated that our wonderful Volunteers in Sydney's north contribute almost \$300,000 value of donated time each year to Hope Healthcare's facilities. These facilities include Greenwich and Neringah Hospitals, Graythwaite Nursing Home and the Northern Beaches Palliative Care Service.

The estimate takes account of our 103 volunteers in the north undertaking many diverse roles. Their support is provided across a wide range of areas including bereavement counselling, pastoral care, social work, catering, therapy, transport, carer respite and community care.

Hope Healthcare Chief Executive Officer Mark Newton said that placing a monetary value on the Volunteer effort in this way helps highlight their significant contribution to our work and it was especially appropriate to acknowledge this effort. "With the National Volunteer Week theme 'Volunteers Change Our World', we can honestly say that our volunteers help change the world of our patients and clients and their families and their voluntary contribution to these people and effectively the broader community is quite outstanding."

As an example of our Volunteer's contribution, a new service has been introduced by Volunteers working in the Palliative Care ward at Greenwich Hospital; a 'Happy Hour' drinks trolley. Either before lunch or the evening meal on most days, a Volunteer wheels a trolley into the ward with a selection of complimentary beverages and nibbles for patients and visitors. One of the Volunteers involved, Angela Orton said that the service is proving successful with everyone, "When we arrive in the ward wearing colourful lais around our neck, spirits are lifted and everyone smiles. Champagne and orange juice is popular, but a selection of wine, beer, soft drink and whiskey is also offered. As these can be difficult times for those dealing with a terminal illness, this cheerful additional service adds a lighter touch to our normal supporting role in the ward."

National Volunteer Week is from 12 to 18 May 2008 with the theme - "Volunteers Change Our World" and is an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

New volunteers are always welcome in Hope Healthcare and those interested in contributing should contact Volunteer Manager Daphne Hoade on 9903 8333 for an initial discussion.

Sydney 12 May 2008

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